

D 9984

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

Misc. File No. 119/40

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
CHANGTU ROAD STATION  
S. B. REGISTRY  
9984  
Date May 8, 1940.  
3 5 19 40

Subject: Establishment of the "Centro Social Recreativo" Club at no. 115  
Medhurst Road.

Made by D. I. Hill

Forwarded by

*E. Hill*  
Officer i/c.

Sir,

Further to Misc. 119/40, dated 25-4-40.

I beg to report, that the "Centro Social Recreativo" Club situated at No. 115 Medhurst Road, was formally opened on the 1-5-40. On invitation from the President of the club, Mr. Mario A. Ferras (Portuguese), the undersigned accompanied by Inspt. Lees and D.C.I. Black attended at 7.45 p.m. and left the premises at 8.45 p.m. During the visit referred to, it was observed that only some twelve members were present on the premises, all being Portuguese citizens, no ceremony took place to mark the opening of the club.

During the course of conversation with Mr. M. A. Ferras, it was learned that the club had at present some two hundred members, all being Portuguese citizens. Vide remarks of the Commissioner of Police as appended to the attached report reading "We had better put in some members". In order to test the attitude of the committee of the club in relation to the enrolment of members of other nationalities, it was suggested to Mr. Ferras that as the club was in the Changtu Road District, same would serve as a convenient recreation centre for two or three members of the Foreign staff attached to this station, who had expressed a desire to be enrolled as was to be expected. Mr. Ferras did not appear to be enthused with the suggestion, but promised that he would bring the matter before the Standing Committee of the club, at their meeting on the 6-5-40, and would notify the undersigned as to the committee's decision.

INDEXED BY  
(S.B.) REGISTRY

DATE 3/5/40

*DC (S. B. Reg.)*  
*For*  
*Information*  
*File*  
*25*

*51*  
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It is pointed out that the suggestion made direct to Mr. Ferris in the foregoing circumstances, was intended as a camouflaged approach, and subsequent endeavours to obtain member (outside the Force) for reasons defined in previous reports, would be made.

Detective observation on the premises ill be maintained.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

*Handwritten signature*  
D. I.

D. O. "A"

D. D. O. "A"

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

WING HAY No. 119/40

REGISTRY

Chongto Road Station 9984

Date April 29 1940

Subject: Establishment of the "Centro Social Recreativo" Club at No. 118  
Medhurst Road.

Made by D.I. Hill

Forwarded by

E. J. Hill  
Officer V.C.

Sir,

Further to Wisc. 119/40 dated 17-3-40.

On the 24-4-40, the undersigned by appointment interviewed Mr. Mario A. Ferras, in reference to matters pertaining to the above, when the following was ascertained:-

The name of the club will be known as the "Centro Social Recreativo" and is registered with the Portuguese Consular Authorities. The membership of the club is open to all nationalities. Membership will be divided into two grades i.e. Full members and Ordinary members.

Applicants for membership have to be proposed by a Portuguese member and seconded by another. Membership fee is as follows:-

Annual subscription of \$24.00 for a Full member and \$12.00 for an Ordinary member.

The President of club is Mr. Mario A. Ferras, Portuguese citizen, c/o Shanghai Water Works Co., Ltd., No. 484 Kiangse Road. The standing committee and trustees of the club are:- Mr. Mario A. Ferras, Mr. Jose M. Gutterres, Mr. Francis P. Gutterres and one other (not yet appointed).

Questioned regarding the difference between the two grades of members, Mr. Ferras stated that "Full members" were entitled to full privileges afforded them by the club whilst "Ordinary members" were more restricted, and would not be permitted to indulge in card games, the use of the card rooms being exclusively for "Full Members" only, no guests being allowed in the latter rooms.

INDEXED BY  
(S.B.) REGISTRY

DATE 29/4/40

DC (S.B. Branch)  
Sir  
Information  
J. Hill

24/

J. Hill  
Q. Hill

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The ground floor of the premises will consist of a billiard room, dining room, reception room and bar. The card rooms (Two) are situated on the first floor, whilst the second floor and attic will be converted into private living quarters for private families or dormitories for single men.

Questioned regarding Chinese members, Mr. Ferras stated that as the object of the club was to promote Portuguese relations with other nationalities through the medium of recreation, entertainment by means of social gatherings, dances concerts, card games, lectures etc. Chinese members would be admitted, questioned regarding whether or not Chinese membership would be limited, Mr. Ferras stated that there was no limitation at present, but he would discuss the advisability there being so with the Standing Committee.

It was pointed out to Mr. Ferras that the rental of the premises was \$30,000.00 per year, consequently this sum plus nominal running expenses would have to be met by the club through the trustees who were the lessees. Mr. Ferras stated that the sub-letting of the second floor and attic would obtain a return of \$1,500.00 per month in rentals, this sum plus membership subscriptions, bar profits, billiard profits and profits obtained from dances and concerts whilst drives etc. would off-set the overhead running expenses.

Mr. Ferras was informed that rumours were current to the effect that gambling would be indulged in, the latter

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then stated that no form of public gambling would be permitted. Full members only would be permitted the use of the card-room for games of "poker", "bridge", "crib" etc. where stakes would be played for and limited according to the club regulations.

Questioned as to whether any "Monte-Carlo" nights would be organized, Mr. Ferras answered in the negative, he was reminded that should this form of gambling be organized appropriate Police action would be taken.

In concluding this report, I wish to state that no evidence is to hand, that tends to show that the club will not be conducted on the proper lines, the fact however remains that if no limitation is placed on the number of Chinese members, there is a possibility of the latter eventually being in the majority. It is therefore reasonable to assume that gambling for high stakes would subsequently be indulged in, therefore the undersigned considers that the conduct of these members will require close watching.

Attached herewith is a copy of the club regulations.

The date of the formal opening of the club is set for 1-8-40.

I am, Sir,  
Yours obediently,



D. I.

D. O. "A"

D. D. O. "A"

ARTICLES OF THE "CENTRO SOCIAL RECREATIVO"

1. The Centro Social Recreativo, with its Club Rooms at 115 Medhurst Road, Shanghai, shall function under the following Articles.
2. The Center shall be called the "Centro Social Recreativo" and it shall be registered at the Portuguese Consulate General at Shanghai.
3. The Center shall be a Proprietary Club, the names of the Proprietors being registered as such at the Portuguese Consulate General at Shanghai.
4. The Centro Social Recreativo is instituted to provide a central and convenient Club in Shanghai for members of the Portuguese and all other communities, and to do all such things as in the opinion of the Proprietors shall tend to promote Portuguese relations with other nationalities.
5. The objects for which the Center is formed are:- To sponsor recreation and entertainment by means of social gatherings, dances, concerts, card games, lectures, books and periodicals.
6. The Center shall be under the management and direction of a Board composed of five (5) Trustees appointed by the Proprietors of the Center.
7. This Board shall include a President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Assistant Honorary Secretary and an Assistant Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall be Portuguese Citizens and duly registered at the Portuguese Consulate General as such Citizens.
8. The Trustees shall remain in office till death or resignation, or until the Proprietors shall think proper to remove any one or more of them. The appointment of a new Trustee shall be by the Proprietors. All securities shall be taken, stocks purchased, and purchases and investments made by the Trustees in the name of the Centro Social Recreativo; the property, the subject-matter of the trust, to be nevertheless subject to the disposition of the Proprietors.
9. The Trustees shall have power to borrow money upon security of the property of the Club, or otherwise, and for such purposes to grant mortgages, effect capital redemption policies for the amount of any loan, and give any security that they may deem necessary. The orders, in writing, of the Proprietors, shall be obligatory upon, and a justification to, the Trustees as to any such purchase, sale, investment, borrowing, mortgage or disposal.
10. In the event of the Center ceasing to exist as such, from whatever

cause, the property and funds of the Center shall be entrusted to the Proprietors for liquidation as they may decide.

11. All the concerns of the Center, including the purchase of furniture, plate, linen, etc., and the acquisition of a proper collection of books and periodical publications, shall be managed by the said Board.

12. The Board shall have power to nominate Committees for any special purpose connected with the club management, to make by-laws, and appoint all officers and servants of the Center, and shall name their own days of meeting for the transaction of business - at which meetings three shall be a quorum.

13. Any infraction of the rules or regulations of the Center shall be taken immediate cognizance of by the Board.

14. Membership in the Center shall be open to Ladies and Gentlemen of the Portuguese and all other nationalities.

15. Membership will be divided into two classes: Ordinary Members and Full Members; classification of each Member will be determined by the Board.

16. Every candidate for admission to the Center shall be proposed by one Portuguese Member and seconded by another and full particulars regarding the name, address and nationality of the candidate shall be entered in an application form provided by the Center.

17. The application of each candidate shall be considered by the Board and shall be submitted to the Proprietors of the Center for their approval.

18. There shall be no Entrance Fee. The Annual Subscription shall be \$12.00 for Ordinary Members and \$24.00 for Full Members, payable in advance. Subscriptions may be paid in instalments of \$1.00 every month for Ordinary Members and \$2.00 every month for Full Members, payable in advance.

19. The election of each new member shall be immediately notified to him by the Board, who shall, at the same time, request him to remit the amount of the Annual or Monthly subscription.

20. A newly-elected member is not entitled to participate in any of the advantages or privileges of the Center until he has paid his first monthly subscription; and as the payment of this Subscription will



entitle a member to enjoy every benefit the Center can ~~off~~ confer, according to his classification of Membership, so is his acquiescence in the rules of the Center thereby distinctly implied.

21. If such new member does not, in compliance with the preceding rules, pay his first Monthly Subscription within the space of one month from the date of his election, his election shall be cancelled unless he can account for the delay to the satisfaction of the Board.

22. Should any Member intend to be absent from Shanghai for a period of three months or more, he may, without payment of his subscriptions for that period, retain his membership by a written request to the Board to have his name placed in the list of Absent Members. Should he fail to do so, he shall automatically cease to be a Member. If he has done so, he shall have at once, on his return, the full privileges of membership on payment of his subscription for the current month.

23. A Member shall not be entitled to the privileges of membership until he has paid his subscription for the current month. A Member shall be suspended from the privileges of membership if his subscription remain unpaid by the end of the month. Should a Member's subscription remain unpaid two (2) months after it becomes due, he shall be expelled from the Center by the Board as a Defaulter.

24. Any lady or gentleman of distinguished public position may be elected by the Board as a temporary Member for a period of six months. He must be proposed in writing by a Portuguese Member of the Center, who must certify from personal knowledge that he is a fit person, politically and socially, to be so admitted. The proposal must also be signed by two members of the Board. The Board may on application continue his admission as a temporary member from month to month for a period of six months.

25. In case the conduct of any Member, either in or out of the Club House, shall in the opinion of the Board be injurious or calculated to be injurious to the character and interests of the Center, or if any Member shall appear to be Board wilfully to have acted contrary to the rules and constitution of the Center, the Board may call upon him to furnish them with an explanation within a reasonable stated time, and if

he shall not within such time offer them any such explanation, or if after due consideration any explanation which he may have offered be considered by them to be insufficient or unsatisfactory, the Board may write to the Member recommending him to resign. If such Member does not so resign within one month from the date of such recommendation, the Board may forthwith expel him and erase his name from the list of members, and such offending Member shall therefore cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Center, and for ever afterwards be disqualified from entering or being entertained in the Club House.

No such recommendation shall, however, be sent to any Member, and no such expulsion shall actually take place unless the same shall be agreed to by three-fifths of the members of the Board present at the meeting specially summoned for the purpose: Provided also, that if at any such meeting the members present be unanimously of opinion that the offence of a member is sufficient to warrant his immediate expulsion, they shall be empowered to expel him forthwith, and in either case notice of the decision of the Board shall be forwarded to the offending Member.

26. Any member may resign his membership by giving to the Board notice in writing to that effect. Every such notice shall, unless a later date is indicated, be deemed to take effect as at the end of the month, provided his accounts are settled in full.

27. MEMBERS' OBLIGATIONS. All Members shall:-

- (a) Carry out all the provisions of these Articles and the Center's Internal Regulations and bye-laws.
- (b) Abide by all the rulings of the Board.
- (c) Conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as to be above reproach.
- (d) Settle immediately and in full all expenses incurred by them within the premises of the Center, before leaving the house.
- (e) Make good all breakages and damage to furniture, fixtures and gear, except in case of unavoidable accident.

28. MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES. All members are entitled to:-

- (a) Partake of all amusements and conveniences, subject to the restrictions imposed by the Center's Internal Regulations.
- (b) Introduce guests in accordance with Article 30.

Notes:- Only Members of Portuguese nationality may propose and second candidates for membership.

29. Members are prohibited from giving gratuities to the servants under any circumstances, and must not personally reprimand a servant.

(c) Ordinary Members shall not be permitted to participate in any card games in the Club House.

30. Guests are admitted into the rooms of the Club House specially set apart for that purpose. Guests are not admitted into the Green Room. Guests are not permitted to play Billiards. The number of guests introduced by any one Member is limited to two (2). A Guest Book shall be kept in the Entrance Hall and Members must enter the names of their guests before they will be admitted into the Club House.

31. No notice of any kind shall be posted except by authority of the Board nor shall any club notices be altered without the consent of the Board; every notice must have the signature of one of the members of the Board.

32. All suggestions and complaints must be in every case made in writing and forwarded to the Board and which will be investigated by the Board at the first available opportunity.

#### II-LABEL

1.

#### GENERAL

A. The Club House is opened to members at 5.00 p.m. on week-days and at 2.00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and holidays. It is closed at 4.00 a.m. (except by permission of the Board on special occasions); after which hour all guests must vacate the premises and no members or guests will be admitted. Members remaining in the Club House must vacate the premises at 4.30 a.m. Any member remaining in the Club House after 4.30 a.m. shall pay a fine of \$1.- and after 5.00 a.m. a further fine of \$2.-.

B. The Center is not responsible for the property of members of any kind, unless given into the charge of a duly authorized servant of the Center, and a receipt or check is taken in exchange.

C. Members are requested to place hats, coats, umbrellas and parcels of any kind in the Cloak Room, and are not allowed to place these articles on any piece of furniture in any room whatsoever.

D. Member may not take away from the Club House, or injure, or destroy, upon any pretext whatsoever, any newspaper, pamphlet, book,

or any other article, the property of the Center, under the penalty of expulsion.

E. Articles broken by members must be paid for by them, except in case of unavoidable accident.

F. Members shall pay for any article they may order before leaving the room in which it has been supplied. All expenses incurred by the members shall be paid by them before they leave the house, and no account shall be opened or allowed with any member of the Center.

G. Members may each have a Deposit Book but under no circumstances may the debits exceed the amount of the Deposit.

H. Members may not use the address of the Center for any correspondence.

I. Members introducing Guests are responsible for all charges incurred by them, and are also responsible for the full compliance of Article 30 by themselves and their Guests.

#### ENTRANCE HALL

E.  
A. Seats are not permitted on the front entrance steps of the Club House.

B. Dogs are not allowed within the entrance doors under any circumstances.

C. The hall porter is expressly ordered not to take in any letters addressed to individual members of the Center.

D. Refreshments will not be served in the hall.

#### VERANDAH

3.  
A. Darts, chess and draughts are the only games which are allowed on the verandah.

B. Refreshments, other than meals, may be served on the verandah.

#### CLOCK ROOM

4.  
A. Members are prohibited from giving gratuities to the Clock Room Boy under any circumstances, in accordance with Article 29.

B. Hats, coats, umbrellas and parcels of any kind must be placed in the Clock Room, and a receipt or check taken in exchange.

#### TELEPHONE

5.  
A. The telephone is in charge of the hall porter.

B. The telephone is for the personal use of members, and the servants are not allowed to use the instrument on their behalf.

- C. Charge of five (5) cents is made for each call on the telephone.
- D. Additional charges will be made for toll-calls.

6. DRAWING-ROOM

- A. This room is opened at all Club hours.
- B. This room may be used for the reception of guests.
- C. Refreshments may be served in this room, with the exception of meals.

7. DINING ROOM & BAR.

- A. These rooms may be used for the reception of guests.
- B. A list of the ordinary charges in the dining-room and bar shall be kept for the reference of members.
- C. A table may not be reserved for any member more than half an hour previous to the hour for which his dinner has been ordered, unless by special arrangement with the Board.
- D. The right of any member to secure a particular table will depend on the priority of his order.
- E. Dinners must be ordered before 8.30 p.m. and cannot be served after 9.00 p.m.
- F. Suppers must be ordered before 11.30 p.m. and cannot be served after 1.00 a.m.
- G. Wines, spirits, mineral waters and light meals may be served to members and their guests at all Club hours.
- H. Servants are not allowed to leave the dining-room to apprise members that their dinners are ready, or to fetch for them books, newspapers, or other articles which they may want from other rooms.
- I. Wines, spirits, liquors, mineral waters, and other articles of a portable nature are not allowed to be brought into the Club House.
- J. Provisions other than those belonging to the Club are not allowed to be introduced.
- K. All provisions, wines, spirits, and other articles may not be sent out of the house for the use of any member.
- L. Should any objection be raised by members to the charges made, the matter must be referred to the Board, which may refund any amount paid which in its opinion, has not been properly chargeable. The servants have strict orders not to receive less than the amount claimed.

K. Members are not to make complaints to the servants. Should there be any cause for complaint, they must communicate in writing to the Board, enclosing the bill for the meal. All complaints respecting any refreshments served, for which no bill is made out, and all complaints respecting the servants should be addressed in writing to the Board.

L. Refreshments of any kind may not be supplied to members whose previous day's charge remain unpaid.

M. Members are particularly requested that, for the comfort and convenience of others, they will vacate their seats in a reasonable time after they have dined.

N. Chess and draughts are the only games which are allowed to be played in the dining-room, except during dinner and supper hours. No games are to be played in the bar.

O. Writing materials are not allowed to be used on the dining-room tables.

P. Members are prohibited from giving gratuities to servants of the dining-room and bar under any circumstances, in accordance with Article 29.

#### 8. OTHER ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR DINNER PARTIES

A. Private dinners in a separate room must be arranged with the Board, except that the room cannot be reserved exclusively for a member entertaining less than eight (8) persons. Two (2) days notice for the exclusive use of a room must be given for the reservation of a room.

B. Alterations may not be made in the sum arranged to be charged for the dinner.

C. Guests of the member who has reserved a room for private dinners and parties are not permitted to participate in any card playing, unless such Guests shall also be Members of the Club, in good standing.

#### 9. KITCHEN

A. Members may not enter the kitchen, under any pretext, without having first obtained permission from the Board.

#### 10. LIBRARY

A. This room is set apart chiefly for reading and writing.

tests are permitted into this room.

C. Conversation is not permitted in this room.

D. Books and notices belonging ~~for~~ to this room are not to be removed therefrom.

E. Coffee and spirits may be served in this room, but no meals of any sort.

11.

BILLIARD ROOM

A. Guests are permitted into this room but are not allowed to play.

B. The code of rules placed in this room is to be the sole guide if all differences that may arise.

C. Billiards take precedence of any other game.

D. A member having engaged a table, must, when his turn comes either play himself or forfeit his turn. He may not transfer his turn to another member.

E. A member may not retain the table when playing with the marker, if two other members desire to play; the marker, under such circumstances, not being allowed to continue the game. The marker cannot be called upon to play after midnight.

F. A member may not retain a table after playing one game of 100 up, two games of 50 up, or one frame of Snooker, or in any circumstances for more than forty minutes should the table be required by other members.

G. All games to be charged at the rate of half cent per minute.

H. Any member cutting the cloth shall be liable to pay the full cost of the necessary repair.

I. A member is not allowed to place any article other than billiard equipment upon the cushions, nor to sit on the table.

J. A new game shall not commence at or after 3.30 a.m., and all play shall cease at 4.00 a.m.

K. Refreshments, other than meals, may be served in this room.

12.

CARD ROOM

A. This room is appropriated exclusively for the use of Full Members for card playing. Guests are not to be admitted into this room under any pretext whatever. Ordinary members are not allowed to play.

B. Club points only are allowed, i.e. not exceeding 50 cents a hundred



idge, \$1.- per game of 36 for Manilha, \$1.- = ante for Poker, \$1.- per game and five cents per point for Cribbage, and 10 cents per point for Mah Jeng.

C. The price for each pack of cards will be at cost.

D. Members may purchase opened packs of cards at quarter-cost.

E. Card-playing shall cease at 4.00 a.m., when the lights shall be put out under any circumstances. Should a game be unfinished, at that time, it must be abandoned.

F. The following fines will be incurred for a breach of this rule:-  
From 4.00 a.m. to 4.30 a.m. \$1.- from each player; afterwards, \$2.- each player for each quarter of an hour.

G. A member who is in default shall not be allowed to play.

H. All liabilities incurred in this room must be settled at once.

I. The following charges will be made per head.

J. Refreshments, other than meals, may be served in this room.

13. SERVANTS.

A. Article 29 prohibiting gratuities to the servants, which is absolutely essential to the well-being of the Club, does not prohibit members from giving donations to the Servants' Chinese New Year Fund.